

REMARKS

Applicants have selected the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 154-187, for continued examination, with traverse. In traversing the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully assert that there would be no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all pending claims, i.e., claims 154-264, simultaneously.

M.P.E.P. § 803 directs as follows (emphasis added): “If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” This directive should be followed in this case. While the claim sets of Groups I, II, and III do indeed recite somewhat different terms, each claim is similar. Also, the individual steps identified in the Restriction Requirement as differentiating the independent claims of these three groups, e.g., temperature, mixing, and batch weight, are recited in dependent claims (e.g., claims 172, 173, 191, 207, and 225) of each group.

In examining any single set or group of claims in this application, the Examiner will also necessarily examine the other sets also. In view of this, Applicants believe there will be no serious burden on the Examiner and respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of claims 154-264 presently pending in this application be examined together.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the claims of Groups II and III in a divisional application. An office action on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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